REMARKS

I. Summary of Office Action

Claims 1, 3, 6, 17, and 22-25 were pending in the above-identified patent application.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 17, and 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,141,488 ("Knudson") in view of Barton U.S. Patent No. 6,490,722 ("Barton").

II. Summary of Applicants' Reply

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 6, 17, and 22-25 and added new claims 26 and 27 to more particularly define the claimed invention. The claim amendments and the new claims are fully supported by the application as originally filed and therefore add no new matter. *See, e.g.,* applicants' specification at FIG. 10 and paragraphs 50 and 53.

The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

III. Applicants' Reply

Claims 1, 3, 6, 17, and 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson in view of Barton. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 3, 6, 17, and 24-25 are directed to methods and systems for transferring a broadcast signal to a storage device. Instructions to transfer two or more timeslots on one or more channels to a storage device are received. A conflict is determined when the instructions require at least portions of the first and second timeslots to be transferred to the storage device at the same time. The conflict is resolved automatically by assigning a priority to a first timeslot that is higher than a priority assigned to another timeslot when the first timeslot is determined to include a user extended trail portion (claims 1, 6, 24, 25) or assigning a higher priority to the second timeslot when the second timeslot does not have an automatically extended lead trail portion (claims 3, 17).

Knudson refers to a system that allows a user to record and view television programs. In one embodiment, short buffer segments are automatically recorded before and

after scheduled broadcast time to compensate for time discrepancy between the broadcast and set-top box clock. When two consecutive programs from different television channels are scheduled to be recorded, the system always eliminates the trailing buffer of the first program, so that the beginning of the second program is not lost when both programs are recorded (column 7, lines 49-67).

Barton refers to a system that helps users select programs for recording and resolve conflicts between programs to be recorded. In one embodiment, application software may build a priority order of programs based on an analysis of previously watched programs (column 16, lines 6-16 and column 17, lines 29-44). When conflicts arise between programs to be recorded, users are given the option of shortening the expiration dates on conflicting programs (column 19, lines 66-67 to column 20, lines 1-5).

The Examiner acknowledges that Knudson fails to disclose the timeslots having a first priority, a second one of said time slots including a core timeslot having a second priority; wherein the conflict is resolved by selecting the first priority as the higher priority such that the first one of said timeslots is chosen if the first one of said timeslots is a user extended trail timeslot. The Examiner cites Barton as allegedly making up for this deficiency (Office Action, page 4-5). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Knudson and Barton, whether taken alone or in combination, do not show or suggest assigning a priority to a first timeslot that is higher than priority assigned to another timeslot when the first timeslot is determined to include a user extended trail portion, as defined by applicants' claims 1, 6, 24, 25, or assigning a higher priority to the second timeslot when the second timeslot does not have an automatically extended lead or trail portion, as defined by applicants' claims 3 and 17. Instead, Barton uses priorities to build preference lists to assist users in selecting programs to be recorded and does not assign priorities based on a determination that a timeslot includes or does not include an extended lead or trail portion. Knudson does not make up for this deficiency, since no priorities are assigned. Thus, Knudson and Barton, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest all the features of applicants' claims 1, 3, 6, 17, and 24-25.

Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 6, 17, and 24 and 25 are allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 22 and 23 depend directly from allowable claim 1 or 17, and therefore also are allowable.

IV. New Claims

Claims 26 and 27 have been added in order to more particularly define the claimed invention. Claims 26 and 27 depends from allowable claim 1 or 17 and therefore are also allowable.

V. Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that claims 1, 3, 6, 17, and 22-27 are allowable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/Gall C. Gotfried/

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Gall C. Gotfried
Reg. No. 58,333
Agent for Applicants

ROPES & GRAY LLP
Customer No. 75563